

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /069 W

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R 110905Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4007

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1809

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA

1. AMBASSADOR ABD AR RAHMAN AL-QADI, DIRECTOR OF ARAB AFFAIRS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, INFORMED US MARCH 9 THAT HE HAD BEEN NAMED SAUDI ARABIAN AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA. HE SAID THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REQUESTED AND WAS ANTICIPATED WITHIN A WEEK OR SO. HE PLANS TO LEAVE FOR TRIPOLI IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS AFTER WINDING UP HIS PERSONAL AFFAIRS IN JIDDA.

2. AL-QADI HAS BEEN IN HIS PRESENT JOB SINCE FEBRUARY 73 AND HAS HAD THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR SINCE SEPTEMBER 73. HIS PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENTS HAVE INCLUDED A PRIOR PERIOD AS DIRECTOR OF ARAB AFFAIRS FROM 1960-1967, A 2 1/2 YEAR ASSIGNMENT TO THE CONSULATE IN NEW YORK (1968-1970), AND A TOUR AS COUNSELOR FOR PRESS AFFAIRS AT THE SAUDI EMBASSY IN BEIRUT 1970-1972.

3. AMBASSADOR AL-QADI IS A LAWYER BY TRAINING (UNIVERSITY OF CAIRO). HE IS WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS THE US AND AMERICANS THOUGH HE IS STRONGLY CRITICAL OF US-MIDDLE EAST POLICY. HE IS KNOWLEDGABLE ABOUT ARAB AFFAIRS IN GENERAL, BUT HE HAS STRUCK US AS AN INTELLECTUAL LIGHT-WEIGHT WHO FREQUENTLY SPEAKS IN CLICHES. THOUGH  
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ALWAYS ACCESSIBLE HE HAS BEEN OF ONLY LIMITED USE AS A

EMBASSY CONTACT, PRIMARILY BECAUSE THE ROLE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN CONDUCTING RELATIONS WITH OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES IS VERY LIMITED: ALL DECISIONS OF ANY IMPORTANCE ARE TAKEN AT THE LEVEL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE CABINET. THE DOWNWARD FLOW OF INFORMATION IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS GENERALLY ERRATIC AND INVARIABLY SLOW.

4. AL-QADI, WHO APPEARS ABOUT 50, SPEAKS ADEQUATE ENGLISH. HE IS OUTGOING, FRIENDLY, GREGARIOUS, AND A HEAVY SMOKER AND DRINKER. HE IS A BACHELOR. EMBASSY TRIPOLI MIGHT FIND HIM A USEFUL CONTACT AS HE WILL PROBABLY HAVE AT LEAST FAIR ACCESS TO LOCAL OFFICIALS. WE THINK HE MIGHT WELCOME THE COMPANY OF AMERICANS IN THE PURITANICAL CLIMATE OF TRIPOLI, WHICH HE MAY FIND EVEN MORE OPPRESSIVE THAN HE HAS FOUND THAT OF JIDDA.  
PORTER

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## Message Attributes

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